IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 9, line 10 as follows:

A group A includes a scanner 301 and a printer 302 as functions. With regard to the functions included in this group, no particular problems arise in making processing wait. A characterizing feature, however, is that if processing has started, it is desired that the processing itself be completed quickly. Since the frequency of use of the function itself is high, the channels of code processing units 310 are provided fixedly and it is so arranged that one code processing unit can always be used if code processing of a corresponding function has been commanded. With reference to Fig. 4, data to be processed is sent to the hardware-implemented code processing unit 209 via the software-implemented code processing units ~~unit~~ 310 with regard to the functions included in this group, and the data is processed at high speed. As mentioned above, the functions of group A can be made to stand by but it is necessary to complete processing quickly once processing has begun.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 13, line 5 as follows:

For example, assume that a FAX receive request has been received. In this embodiment, the code processing unit 310d has been fixedly assigned (in one-to-one correspondence) to a FAX receive request. Consequently, the code-processing acquisition determination unit 309 delivers the receive data to the code processing unit ~~310c~~ 310d immediately. Since the receive data has been coded (the coding scheme depends upon that on the transmitting side), the code processing unit ~~310c~~ 310d decodes the data by the decoding scheme that corresponds to this coding scheme to thereby obtain the raw data, then codes this raw data to generate JBIG data and

stores the JBIG data in the DRAM 204. This series of processing operations is brought to a conclusion by the software-implemented code processing unit. The JBIG data that has been stored is subsequently processed by the printer 302 (printing unit 206) at an appropriate timing and a printout is finally obtained.